

Ideas for Discussion at Open Meeting about Sunday Practica

Accommodating a range of levels and general practica format	
1	<p>Keep the general format of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first few minutes 1 circle • then split into 2 circles with ½ hour of peer teaching and 1 hour of dancing • coming together for 1 circle again at the end
2	<p>Have a “time manager.” This responsibility should rotate.</p>
3	<p>Have a focus/intention each week, to build awareness of technique. The focus/intention could be something like: the shape of the circle, lead/follow technique, hand position, etc.</p>
4	<p>After the first few minutes, have two circles for the remainder of the 2 hours: “dance” and “instruction”</p> <p>“Instruction” Circle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always have someone available to run an “instruction” circle. This responsibility should rotate among a list of people who can follow a set of guidelines. • Folks can work on basics, learning to call, role reversal, and technique. The person running the “instruction” circle will announce what the circle will cover that week. • 4:30-5:00 – circle dynamics and basics (instruction or review, as needed), or teach a step • 5:00-6:30 – focus/intention, practice calling, repetitive calling • “Instruction” circle is actively managed, but is <i>not</i> 2 hours of instruction. <p>The “Dance” Circle would be how it currently is: peer-teaching of a step and shared calling.</p>
5	<p>Develop guidelines for how to present a step to the “dance” circle (peer-to-peer teaching). Also hold a workshop on this periodically.</p> <p>Develop separate guidelines for how to run the “instruction” circle.</p>
6	<p>Ask beginners to arrive at 4:30, to make the “instruction” circle more manageable</p>
7	<p>Have a paid instructor teach a workshop during practica time, 1x/quarter or 1x/month. Topics might include frame, body movement, listening to son and timba, new calls</p>
8	<p>Have ongoing working committees for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • Booking instructors • Other topics???

Guiding people to the appropriate circle

9	<p>Develop a self-test to determine when you are ready for the “dance” circle. It could include questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Am I consistently on the correct foot on 1 and 5?○ Do I feel the pause and is it visible to others?○ Do I end up facing the right direction?○ Am I too slow? Do I feel like I’m being pushed or rushed?○ Am I rushing? How can I tell?○ Can I step into a circle while it’s going?○ Do I know what to do if I don’t know the call? Can I tell which way I’m supposed to turn?○ Follows – Am I actually following? Will it work if I didn’t hear the call but the lead knows how to lead it?○ Leads – Will it work if my follow doesn’t know the step but she does know how to follow?
10	<p>Make the “instruction” circle appealing to folks who know basics but are working on technique.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do this by having a weekly focus/intention.● Guidelines for running the circle should address this.

Dancer-to-dancer communication and etiquette

11	Have a working committee for etiquette
12	<p>Develop a handout on etiquette (ground rules for participating in practica). It could address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Whether and how to provide peer-to-peer feedback● Sample dialog for when something isn’t working● Hygiene/illness
13	Have a workshop on etiquette/communication
14	Develop sample dialog for how to bring up the “self-test”